

(WASHINGTON) – Congressman Chet Edwards announced that he has secured federal funding to support the efforts of Texas Wesleyan University to expand higher education in Johnson County under the 2011 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill, which passed the House Appropriations subcommittee recently.

At the request of local leaders, Edwards secured \$350,000 in the bill to support TWU's Extended Studies Initiative that provides degree completion and continuing education programs to individuals in Johnson County. The Extended Studies Initiative is a collaboration between Hill College, Texas Wesleyan University and the City of Burleson to provide expanded educational opportunities to currently under-served areas of Johnson County while helping to address the workforce needs of the region.

*"Expanding higher education opportunities for local citizens will help them invest in their future while boosting economic development in Johnson County," **said Edwards.** "I want to thank Texas Wesleyan University for their dedication to higher education in our community, and for bringing this important project to my attention."*

Beverly Volkman Powell, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Texas Wesleyan University, said, *"We are very grateful to Congressman Edwards for securing funding for the Extended Studies Initiative for our Burleson Site. Funding for this important initiative would not have been possible without Congressman Edward's support and dedication to higher education in our region. Texas Wesleyan University will promote degree completion and continued professional education programs via classroom instruction, teleconferencing, streaming video or web-based formats--including distance and on-line education. Congressman Edwards is to be commended for his vision and attentiveness to the needs of the students in our Congressional*

District and for his commitment to furthering higher education in Burleson and the surrounding area.”

The annual appropriations bill must still pass the House, Senate, and be signed into law.